



*American goldfinch*  
USFWS photo

## Consultation and Coordination with Others

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## Background

We presented in Chapter 1, figure 1-2, the steps in the comprehensive conservation planning process and how it integrates NEPA requirements, including public involvement. What follows is the chronology of public outreach activities we conducted while preparing this document.

In November 2002, we determined that it would be more efficient to plan separately for the Wallkill River and Shawangunk Grasslands refuges. We selected the latter as our first priority.

## Public Outreach

### Meeting our refuge neighbors at open houses

May 18, 1999

Number of non-FWS attendants: 4

Location: Sparta, NJ

May 19, 1999

Number of non-FWS attendants: 20

Location: Vernon, NJ

June 9, 1999

Number of non-FWS attendants: 25

Location: Wallkill, NY (Ulster County)

June 17, 1999

Number of non-FWS attendants: 25

Location: Warwick, NY

### Updating various constituencies on our progress

November 1, 2000

Number of non-FWS attendants: 10

Location: Goshen, NY

Audience: Orange County Audubon Society

March 7, 2001

Number of non-FWS attendants: 25

Location: Wallkill, NY

Audience: Shawangunk-Gardiner Historical Society

April 24, 2001

Number of non-FWS attendants: 25

Location: Wallkill, NY

Audience: Wallkill Women's Club

July 11, 2001

Number of non-FWS attendants: 40

Location: New Paltz, NY

Audience: Wallkill River Task Force

October 20, 2001  
Number of non-FWS attendants: 10  
Location: Shawangunk, NY  
Audience: Wallkill River Task Force

December 7, 2001  
Number of non-FWS attendants: 35  
Location: West Nyack, NY  
Audience: Rockland Audubon Society

April 13, 2002  
Number of non-FWS attendants: 36  
Location: Middletown, NY  
Audience: Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club

May 1, 2002  
Number of non-FWS attendants: 16  
Location: Goshen, NY  
Audience: Orange County Audubon Society

September 28, 2002  
Number of non-FWS attendants: 60  
Location: Monticello, NY  
Audience: Audubon Council of NYS

October 16, 2002  
Number of non-FWS attendants: 18  
Location: Hackensack, NJ  
Audience: Bergen County Audubon Society

### **Working meetings with conservation experts**

We also organized working meetings in fall 1999 and 2000 to synthesize expert opinions, both inside and outside the Service, on creating effective strategies for preservation.

### **September 21, 1999**

Outreach Activity:	Planning Meeting
Purpose:	Update the status of the CCP for the Wallkill and Shawangunk Effects on Cultural and Historic Resources refuges and discuss goals and objectives for future development of the CCP
Non-FWS attendants:	6
Audience:	Leslie Fisheries, DEC Biologist; Glen Cole, DEC Wildlife; Mark King, TNC Hudson River; Ted Kerpez, DEC Endangered Species; Al Breisch, DEC NonGame; Bruce MacMillan, DEC Lands

	Topics:	Species of concern; ecological communities; water quality in Wallkill River; land protection; wildlife-dependent use; working with the public; budget and staff
<b>October 13–14, 1999</b>	Outreach Activity:	Planning Meeting
	Purpose:	Update the status of the CCP for the Wallkill and Shawangunk refuges and discuss alternatives
	Non-FWS attendants:	3
	Audience:	Jim Sciascia, Principal Biologist, NJ DEP Fish, Game & Wildlife; Joe Penkala, Regional Superintendent, NJ DEP Fish, Game & Wildlife; Ted Kerpez, Endangered Species Coordinator, NY DEC
	Topics:	Focus areas; marsh and grassland bird nesting in Wallkill; species of concern; land prioritization; public use; alternatives
<b>October 3, 2000</b>	Outreach Activity:	CCP Planning Meeting, New York Focus
	Purpose:	Discuss hunting alternatives; examine fire management recommendations for the Shawangunk grasslands.
	Non-FWS attendants:	1
	Audience:	Ted Kerpez, NY DEC, Non-Game Coordinator for Northern Region
	Topics:	How the New York Open Space Conservation Plan, the Biodiversity Project, and the Hudson River Estuary Management Program relate to and affect the refuge, fire management on the refuge; the issue of the existing concrete runways; the impact of hunting on the refuge
<b>October 4, 2000</b>	Outreach Activity:	CCP Planning Meeting, New Jersey Focus
	Purpose:	Update the CCP process; discuss the draft PPP proposal
	Non-FWS attendants:	6
	Audience:	Mike Valent, NJ DEP Non-Game Program; John Garcia, NJ DEP Parks and Forestry, Chief of Capital Planning and Programming; Lou Cherapy, NJ DEP Parks and Forestry, Regional Superintendent; Paul Stern, NJ DEP Superintendent, Northern Regional Office NJ DEP Parks and Forestry; Terry Caruso, NJ

		Green Acres Program; Beverly Muzalla, NJ Natural Lands Trust/NJ Parks and Forestry
	Topics:	Various land protection programs; how cooperation can be achieved; local responses to state land acquisition
<b>Briefing elected officials and others</b>	June 20, 2001	Representative Benjamin A. Gilman at Washington, DC.
	June 20, 2001	Aides to Representative Maurice D. Hinchey at Washington, DC.
	March 12, 2002	Aides to Representative Gilman at Washington, DC.
	March 12, 2002	Aides to Representative Hinchey at Washington, DC.
	July 30, 2002	Representative Hinchey's Chief of Staff, Paul Brotherton, at the refuge.
	March 27, 2003	Steve Kahl, Kevin Holcomb and Beth Goldstein brief Ted Kerpez, Regional Wildlife Manager, Bill Rudge, Natural Resources Supervisor, and Leslie Zucker, Hudson River Estuary Program, NYSDEC.
	May 17, 2004	Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership
<b>Planning updates and other newsletters</b>	May 1999	Distributed an Issues Workbook to all 3,000 names on our mailing list
	October 1999	Distributed our "Fall 1999 Planning Update" to everyone on our mailing list
	January 2002	Distributed our "Winter 2002 Planning Update" to everyone on our mailing list
	November 2005	Distributed a "Planning Update" to everyone on our mailing list
<b>What Happens Next?</b>	<p>We will analyze all of the comments on this draft CCP/EA we receive during its 45 day public review, and apply them when we revise it into our final CCP. One of its final appendixes will summarize those public comments and our responses to them. We will submit the final CCP to our Regional Director for review and approval. Once it has been approved, we can implement it.</p> <p>At the same time we publish our final CCP, we will publish its Finding of No Significant Impact, certifying that it meets agency compliance requirements and advances the purpose of the refuge and the mission of the refuge system. Both documents will be available to all interested parties.</p>	

Each year, we will evaluate our accomplishments on the refuge in accordance with the alternative selected in our final CCP. We may intensify refuge monitoring without additional NEPA compliance. However, any results of our future monitoring that predict a new, significant impact would require our analysis and public involvement in an additional Environmental Assessment.